

Message Text

SECRET

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51

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 241020Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8955

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

S E C R E T SAIGON 12380

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, ENRG, PBOR, VS, ID

SUBJ: GOI-GVN CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE

REF: A) JAKARTA 11721; B) JAKARTA 11610; C) SAIGON 12114;
D) JAKARTA 11333

1. TRAN VAN KHOI, GNERAL MANAGER OF PETROLEUM AND MINERALS AGENCY AND KEY GVN FIGURE IN CONTINENTAL SHELF NEGOTIATIONS, TELLS US THAT IN CARACAS DURING LOS CONFERENCE HE RAISED QUESTION OF TECHNICAL TALKS WITH A MR DJALAL, SECRETARY OF THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION. DJALAL PROPOSED A MEETING IN JAKARTA THIS FALL TO DISCUSS CONTESTED AREAS, AND KHOI INDICATED TO DJALAL THIS TIMING WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. KHOI EXPECTS TO RECEIVE AN INVITATION FOR SUCH TALKS FROM INDONESIAN SIDE AS SOON AS INDONESIANS ARE PREPARED.

2. REFS A AND B SUHGEST GVN MAY BE TRYING CONTINENTAL SHELF NEGOTIATIONS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF GVN-GOI AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL RELATIONS, AND THAT PERHAPS WE SHOULD DISCOURAGE GVN FROM MAKING THIS LINKAGE.

3. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT GVN MADE SUCH A CONNECTION, THOUGH THEY MAY HAVE BEEN SO TEMPTED. IN FACT WE HAVE SOME INDICATION TO THE CONTRARY AND THAT VIETNAMESE ARE THINKING IN TERMS OF DISCUSSIONS AMONG "SPECIALISTS". AT THE SAME TIME VIETNAMESE

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WITH GOOD REASON ARE PUZZLED BY PRESENT GOI POLICY WHICH ON THE

ONE HAD PROFESSES FRIENDSHIP FOR THE GVN AND CALLS FOR PLAYING
A HIGHLY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE ICCS WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND
BLOCKING ATTENDANCE BY THE GVN AT ASEAN MEETINGS, EXCHANGING
AMBASSADORS WITH HANOI, BUT DECLINING TO ENTER INTO DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS WITH THE GVN. THE GOI COULD OF COURSE MINIMIZE
EMBARRASMENTS IN JAKARTA DURING CONTINENTAL SHELF NEGOTIATIONS
BY REGULARIZING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM AND
WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN THE U.S. INTEREST FOR IT TO DO SO.
HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE US SHOULD INTERVENE IN THIS MATTER

EITHER HERE OR IN JAKARTA. WE FEEL SURE THAT GVN FOR THE PRESENT AT
LEAST WILL FOLLOW MALIK'S ADVICE TO BE "PATIENT" (SAIGON 12114)
IN THE EXPECTATION THAT INCONSISTENCIES IN GOI POSITION WILL BE
IRONED OUT IN DUE COURSE.
LEHMANN

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NNN

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